

# Flooding from groundwater



## Salisbury Plain Update

12 February 2014

### Current situation

January was one of the wettest on record, with over 200mm of rain falling over Salisbury Plain. During the first week of February we have seen an average of 60mm of rain falling over the area. The South West Water Situation Report gives more details of rainfall, river flows and groundwater levels. To access the report follow the link below: -

#### [January Water Situation Report](#)

Levels are particularly high at Tilshead, where the current reading in the borehole, on 12/02/2014, was 99.78m above sea level (mAOD). The groundwater is around the ground level at this location (we say the borehole is artesian). The River Till is flowing freely and the communities of Tilshead, Shrewton, Orcheston and Berwick St James are being affected by groundwater flooding. There is property flooding in the area and a lot of people have to run their internal pumps to help stop or reduce internal flooding. Roads affected in the area are the A360, Elston Lane, Candown Road and the B390.

On the River Bourne, the boreholes have risen sharply. The Hazelbury Plantation borehole is reading 128.42 mAOD, Queen Manor Farm stands at 74.48 mAOD while Clarendon borehole has reached 77.01 mAOD). As a consequence of the groundwater, the Bourne is much more reactive to any rainfall. There are reports of properties flooding internally and also a lot of properties pumping. Roads affected include the A338 at Collingbourne Ducis, Cholderton, Idmiston as well as the Allington to Newton Toney Road, the High Street at Shipton Bellinger. Other local roads are also affected.

More detailed information on affected roads can be found on Wiltshire Council's website or by following the link below.

#### [Road information](#)

The boreholes on the South Wiltshire Downs are more reactive to rainfall and rise and fall more quickly than the others. They have responded to the recent rainfall and, although lower than early January are likely to rise over the next week (Oakley Industrial Estate 100.13mAOD; Musseldown Copse 138.17 mAOD; The Terraces 118.38 mAOD; Chitterne Down 105.89 mAOD).

### Forecast risk of flooding

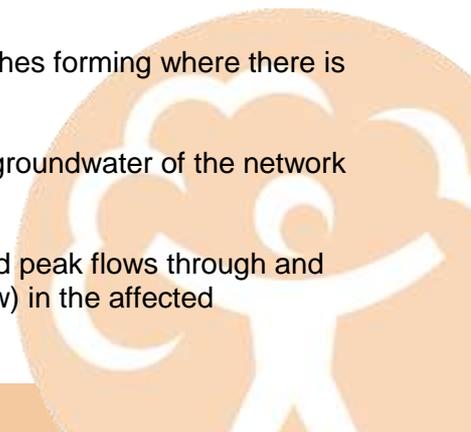
Groundwater levels are predicted to continue to rise following the recent heavy rainfall and with further rain forecast this week. Up to 60 mm of rain is forecast over the next week.

We can expect further properties to be affected during the course of the week and there may be further road closures. Roads will continue to be affected

Where low temperatures are forecast at night, there is the potential for icy patches forming where there is water standing on the roads.

Widespread septic tank and sewer management problems with the ingress of groundwater of the network continues across all catchments.

This situation is set to continue now for several weeks as the groundwater flood peak flows through and discharges from the chalk aquifer (springs, winterbournes and as river baseflow) in the affected catchments.



## What we're doing

We are actively monitoring groundwater levels across the area and are publishing information about this on our website. The groundwater alert messages on the internet will be updated regularly. We are also talking to our local authority and other partners to ensure that they are aware of the situation. We are also working hard to ensure that the defences we operate are functioning effectively (trash screens, pumps, flood storage areas etc.) and will take action to clear removing blockages from rivers in the area to ensure they flow freely. We are in contact with the flood wardens in the communities affected.

## Actions and advice

Call Floodline on 0345 988 1188 / 0845 988 1188 or go online at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk) to find out if you can register to receive free Flood Alerts/Warnings for flooding from groundwater. (Customers should check with their call provider to see which number is cheaper for them to use, as the 0845 number may still be cheaper on some call packages than using the new 0345 number)

- Call Floodline on 0345 988 1188 / 0845 988 1188 for advice if you have been affected by flooding or use quickdial 0452 for up to date flooding information.
- Prepare a flood kit including a torch, batteries, mobile phone, warm clothes, water, food and any prescription medicines you may need.
- Move valuables from basements and cellars
- Check pumps and any other flood protection equipment you have
- Keep drains and gullies around your property free of debris
- Keep an eye on local water levels and weather conditions. Visit the Environment Agency Website ([www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)) for groundwater levels and flooding information.

We are encouraging parishes at risk to develop a Community Flood Plan, identifying local issues and working with the different agencies to prepare and respond to flooding.

## Next update

The next briefing note will be issued on or around 19/02/2014, unless the situation changes

## Further information

To see the latest message about the flood alert for Salisbury Plain follow the link:

[Groundwater on Salisbury Plain](#)

## Contacts

Floodline: 0845 988 1188/ 0345 988 1188

Environment Agency National Customer Contact Centre: 03708 506 506

Environment Agency Incident Hotline: 0800 80 70 60

If you would like any further information on groundwater levels please contact us by emailing [floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk). Please use this email or the incident hotline to report cases of groundwater flooding.